

NEWS RELEASE

Manti-La Sal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 16, 2010

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Forest Service Plans West Scofield Prescribed Fire

This month, the Forest Service will complete the last prescribed fire in an eight-year project to reduce fuels in the Fish Creek Drainage west of Scofield. The Manti-La Sal National Forest, which started the project in 2002, will have treated over 14,000 acres in the drainage when the burn is finished.

If weather and fuel conditions are favorable, fire crews plan to begin burning June 18, using helicopters to ignite the fire. They will treat approximately 600 acres in an area at the northeast end of Bean Ridge, on Fish Creek below Silver Creek, and near French Creek. The area is about three miles west of private property near Scofield.

To reduce the risk to public safety, it will be necessary to temporarily close C-Canyon Trail #223; Bean Ridge Trail # 220; Fish Creek National Recreation Trail #130; Gooseberry Trail #169; and Silver Creek Trail #169. The closed area also includes Township 12 south; Range 6 East; Sections 15 thru 22. Areas will be opened when it is safe for the public to enter.

Smoke and flames may be visible from North Skyline Drive, C Canyon, Silver Canyon, Fish Creek drainage, Bean Ridge and along Highways 96 and 6 for the next few weeks depending on weather conditions and fire behavior. Fire activity and smoke visibility varies, but is generally greatest during the late afternoons, when temperatures are highest and humidity is lowest.

Residual smoke will continue through most of the summer, until the fire is extinguished. The fuels treatment is intended to reduce the threat of catastrophic fires that could burn across the landscape damaging resources and impacting structures and public safety.

Prescribed burns are used for a variety of resource benefits including improved wildlife habitat, reduced fuel buildup from insect killed trees, and to support ecosystem diversity. Aspen stands provide critical habitat for many wildlife species, forage for livestock and wildlife, and to protect stream flows in critical watershed. Aspen is being lost by encroachment of conifers. Aspen regenerates by sprouting following a controlled burn or other disturbance.

The public can view pictures of the fire and get additional information by visiting www.utahfireinfo.gov or calling the Ferron/Price Ranger District at 435-384-2372.

Fire managers would like to remind everyone to be especially careful with camp fires throughout the coming summer. Remember never leave a camp fire untended. Put it dead out when you leave.

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